



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,805	12/16/2003	Jun Fujimoto	402919/SOEI	2858
23548 7590 06/23/2008 LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD 700 THIRTEENTH ST. NW SUITE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3960			EXAMINER YOO, JASSON H	
			ART UNIT 3714	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/23/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/735,805

Applicant(s)

FUJIMOTO, JUN

Examiner

Jasson H. Yoo

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34-42 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 34-42 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 34 recites the limitation of "the first identification detector includes first identification detectors". It is not clear if there is only one first identification detector or a plurality of first identification detectors.

Claim 34 recites the limitations of "each of the first identification information detectors". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 34-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soltys (US 6,460,848) in view of Meissner (US 5,779,546), and in view of Vuong (US 2002/0147042).

34. Soltys discloses a game management system for managing a game, which is played on a game table and employs a plurality of cards and a plurality of chips, the game management system (Fig. 1) comprising:

card identification tags (tags 74 in Fig. 5) identifying each of the plurality of cards, a respective card identification tag being located within each of the plurality of cards (cols. 6:25-7:41);

chip identification tags identifying each of the plurality of chips, a respective chip identification tag being located within each of the plurality of chips (46 in Fig. 2, col. 5:39-67);

a first identification information detector detecting card identification information recorded in the card identification information tag of each of the plurality of playing cards, the first identification information detector being located within the game table (card verification system 62 detects the card identification information recorded in the card identification information tag, and is located within the game table, col. 6:1-24, Fig. 3);

a second identification information detector detecting chip identification information recorded in the chip identification tag of each of the plurality of chips, the second identification information detector being located within the gaming table (Chip monitor system 58 detects the chip identification information. The Chip monitor system is located within the gaming table, Fig. 3); and

a server managing means (server 902 in Fig. 28) tracking of movement of the plurality of cards and of the plurality of chips during the game and results of the game played on the game table, in association with personal information (cols. 22:34 – 23:38), the card identification information detected by the first identification information detector, and the chip identification information detected by the second identification information detector (cols. 21:64 - 22:).

Soltys discloses a game management system for managing a game as discussed above. Soltys further discloses an ID card is used to provide complimentary benefits for the players, by monitoring the player's activity (col. 22:44-49). However, Soltys does not specifically teach the following:

a plurality of ID cards distributed to respective participants in the game and in which personal information identifying the respective participants in the game is recorded, each ID card including a deposit checking unit for confirming betting value available for the perspective participant;

a card reader located within the game table for reading the personal information from the ID cards;

a keypad located at the game table for inputting a bet on the game based upon the value available to a respective participant and confirmed by the deposit checking unit; and

the specific limitations of using a resonant tag disposed on each of the playing cards as claimed.

However the above features are well known in the art and would have been obvious to modify Soltys game management system and incorporate such features.

In an analogous art to player monitoring systems, Meissner discloses a game management system comprising a plurality of player ID cards that is inserted to a card reader within the game table for reading personal information (cols. 4:14, 201c-207c in Fig. 2). The player ID card is used as a player-tracking card (tracks player game play, cols. 7:60-67), and as a deposit-checking unit (tracks player credits, cols. 6:28-33, 7:34-40, 7:64-8:7, 14:48-15:15). A keypad located at the gaming table (201a-207a in Fig. 2) is used for inputting a bet based upon the credit value associated with the player-tracking card (cols. 4:35-67, 12:10-39). Meissner's ID card allows the casino to award player complimentary services more based on player game play more accurately (cols. 2:18-48, col. 7:60-67). Furthermore, including a deposit-checking unit within the ID card increases security from theft, and facilitates players to player at multiple gaming tables (col. 8:1-7, 14:51-59). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Soltys discloses a game management system and incorporate Meissner's ID cards, card reader, and keypad, in order to accurately provide complimentary services qualified customers, increase security, and facilitate players to play at multiple gaming tables.

Soltys in view of Meissner significantly discloses the claimed invention as discussed above, but fails to teach the resonant tags disposed on each of the playing cards and the specific method in which the first detector detects the playing cards by receiving through a receiver, echo waves transmitted from the resonant tags as

claimed. Nevertheless such modifications would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art. In an analogous art to player and game play monitoring systems, Vuong discloses a system that detects individual playing card information (see abstract, paragraphs 10-11, 36-40) by detecting a tag disposed on each of the playing object. The playing objects may be playing cards (See Fig. 5). The tags disposed on the playing cards are RFID tags (paragraph 39). Thus frequencies of the tags are used to detect the card information. Vuong also discloses detector comprises a transponder (paragraph 40). Thus the detector detects echo waves of the RFID tags disposed on each of the playing cards using the transponder. Soltys system uses optical recognition which requires playing objects such as playing cards to be oriented and located in a specific position. Vuong's sysemt allows detection of game objects such as playing cards without having the cards oriented and located in a specific position. Thus individual cards can be detected regardless of the cards orientation. For example, the cards can be stacked (Vuong, paragraph 40). Therefor it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Soltys in view of Meissner's system and incorporate a known method of using resonant tags as taught by Vuong, in order to detect game objects such as playing cards without having the cards being oriented and located in a specific position.

Soltys in view of Meissner and in view of Vuong further discloses the following:

35. The game management system according to claim 34, wherein tracking of movement of the plurality of cards during of the game include information concerning

the cards at a beginning of the game and movement histories of the cards during the game, and the results of the game include information concerning the cards left at an end of the game (The play tracking system detects each card being played on the table and stores play information, Soltys col. 22:13-33)

36. The game management system according to claim 35, wherein the information concerning the cards at the beginning of the game includes kinds of the cards and number of the cards at the beginning of the game (Tracking system tracks cards on the play table in real-time, and thus tracks the cards at the beginning of the game, Soltys col. 22:10-33. Tracking system also identifies the rank and suit of the card, Soltys col. 22:21).

37. The game management system according to claim 35, wherein the information concerning the cards remaining at the ending of the game includes kinds of the cards and number of the cards remaining at the ending of the game (Tracking system tracks cards on the play table in real-time, and thus tracks the cards at the end of the game, Soltys col. 22:10-33).

38. The game management system according to claim 34, wherein the tracking of the movement of the chips during the game includes obtaining information concerning the chips bet upon beginning of the game and movement history of each of the chips during the game, and the results of the game include information concerning

Art Unit: 3714

the chips remaining upon ending of the game (Soltys col. 11:10-12, 11:29-42, 17:9-18:44).

39. The game management system according to claim 38, wherein the information concerning the chips bet at the beginning of the game includes kinds of the chips and number of the chips bet at the beginning of the game (Soltys col. 11:10-12, 11:29-42, 17:9-18:44).

40. The game management system according to claim 38, wherein the information concerning the chips remaining at the ending of the game includes kinds of the chips and number of the chips remaining at the ending of the game (Soltys col. 11:10-12, 11:29-42, 17:9-18:44).

41. The game management system according to claim 34, wherein the results of the game include total remaining betting value at ending of the game (Soltys col. 23:6-18).

42. The game management system according to claim 34, wherein the server detects fraud during the game, which is committed by a participant identified using the personal information, based on the tracking of the movement of the plurality of cards and of the plurality of chips and the results associated with the personal information of

Art Unit: 3714

respective participants (Soltys cols. 11:50-12:20, 12:39-67, 16:39-48; Meisnner col. 14:39-50).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 34-42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasson H. Yoo whose telephone number is (571)272-5563. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:00am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3714

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert E Pezzuto/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

JHY